

Appl. No.: 10/522,294

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel claims 13, 15, 16 and 19 without prejudice.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A retaining device that can maintain an electric contact in a socket of a connection box, said device comprising a bearing surface that can cooperate with a shoulder of said contact, wherein the bearing surface and the shoulder have complementary nonplanar profiles with a contact surface formed at a junction between the bearing surface and the shoulder that is greater than that obtained by planar surfaces having a same width dimension, characterized in that the complementary profiles are interlocking profiles oriented along an axis parallel to the axis of insertion of the contact into the socket.
2. (Previously presented) The retaining device according to claim 1, further characterized in that bearing surface comprises at least one projecting profile.
3. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 2, further characterized in that bearing surface comprises a projection with slightly inclined lateral walls, positioned roughly symmetrically.
4. (Cancelled)

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5. (Previously presented) An electric contact that can be immobilized in a socket of a connection box by means of a retaining device according to claim 1 comprising a bearing surface that can cooperate with a shoulder created at the level of said contact, such that shoulder and bearing surface have complementary, nonplanar profiles, so as to obtain a greater contact surface than that obtained by planar surfaces having the same width dimension, characterized in that the complementary profiles are interlocking profiles oriented along an axis parallel to the insertion axis of the contact in the socket.

6. (Previously presented) The electric contact according to claim 5, further characterized in that shoulder comprises at least one projecting profile.

7. (Previously presented) The electric contact according to claim 6, further characterized in that shoulder comprises a projection with slightly inclined lateral walls, positioned in a roughly symmetrical manner.

8. (Previously presented) The electric contact according to claim 7, further characterized in that shoulder comprises at least one hollow profile.

9. (Currently amended) A system for retaining an electric contact in a connection box comprising:

the connection box comprising a retaining member with a nonplanar bearing surface; and

the electric contact comprising a nonplanar shoulder contacted by the nonplanar bearing surface,

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wherein the nonplanar shoulder and the nonplanar bearing surface each comprise inclined lateral walls which cooperate to form a wedging contact between the nonplanar bearing surface and the nonplanar shoulder.

10. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 9 wherein the retaining member comprises a deflectable blade.

11. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 10 wherein a distal end of the blade extends in front of the nonplanar bearing surface.

12. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 9 wherein the nonplanar bearing surface comprises a projection.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 9 wherein the nonplanar shoulder comprises a recess.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 9 wherein the nonplanar bearing surface and the nonplanar shoulder have complementary mating shapes.

18. (Currently amended) A system for retaining an electric contact in a connection box comprising:

the connection box comprising a retaining member with a nonplanar bearing surface; and

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the electric contact comprising a nonplanar shoulder contacted by the nonplanar bearing surface,

wherein the nonplanar shoulder and the nonplanar bearing surface have complementary shapes with a projection section extending into a recess section to form a wedging contact between the bearing surface and the shoulder, and wherein the nonplanar bearing surface comprises the projection section and the nonplanar shoulder comprises the recess section.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 18 wherein the projection section comprises at least one inclined lateral wall and the recess section comprises at least one mating inclined lateral wall.